

Message Text

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13

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2624

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

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UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0487

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT MEDIA PLAY, FEB 11

1. SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL AND COMMENCEMENT HIS
TALKS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS COVERED OBJECTIVELY ON FRONT
PAGES BOTH GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAPERS FEB 11.

2. CHIEF EDITOR FALHUT OF AL-BAATH IN PRINCIPAL
EDITORIAL ASSERTED ISRAEL AIMS AT SPLITTING
THE ARAB FRONT AND TO THIS END "ISRAEL'S COLLABORATORS
PRESENT PERIODICAL PARTIAL SETTLEMENT PROJECTS UNDER
VARIOUS GUISES ALL AIMING AT SPLITTING THE ARAB RANKS
IN ORDER TO DESTROY ARAB SOLIDARITY, WHICH IS THE
BRIDGE LEADING TO VICTORY." ASSERTED ISRAEL HAS NEVER
SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED THE IDEA OF PEACE, "IN ITS
ARAB AND REAL MEANING OF THE WORD, NAMELY COMPLETE
WITHDRAWAL AND GUARANTEE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLES' RIGHTS."
ISRAELI OPPOSITION TO PEACE SEEN IN PERSISTENT ESTABLISH-
MENT OF SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED LANDS, IN OCCUPYING ADDITIONAL
LANDS AND IN ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST SOUTH LEBANON.

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3. FALHUT STRESSES SYRIA MUST MAKE ALL NECESSARY MILITARY PREPARATIONS AND ALERT POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ARABS TO BATTLE IN THE INTERESTS OF ARAB RIGHTS AND DIGNITY. "NO MEDIATOR IN THE WORLD CAN RETURN ARAB RIGHTS TO US IF WE LACK THE POWER, THE ABILITY AND READINESS TO SACRIFICE FOR THE RECOVERY OF THIS RIGHT." EMPHASIZING SYRIAN READINESS TO CONTINUE SEARCH FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FALHUT STATED, "LET OUR DIALOGUE WITH OTHERS ENCOMPASS ALL THE VARIABLES AND LET OUR MINDS STAY OPEN WITHOUT ANY COMPLEXES. BUT WE MUST NEVER FOR A MOMENT FORGET THAT OUR CHRONIC STRUGGLE WITH THE ENEMY IS AN USUAL ONE AND REQUIRES UNUSUAL EFFORTS IN WHICH POLITICAL SKILLS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER MUST BE BROUGHT TO BEAR AND BE BACKED BY ALL THE MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC ENERGIES OF OUR NATION. MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL IS TO NEVER LET FALL THE WEAPON OF ARAB SOLIDARITY, WHETHER WE MOVE AHEAD ON THE POLITICAL ROAD OR TO THE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE GOLAN, SINAI AND ELSEWHERE."

4. COMMENT: FALHUT EDITORIAL SUMS UP PREVAILING SYRIAN APPRAISAL OF CURRENT ME SITUATION.

MURPHY

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